channel. A still image of the program received on each channel is stored in a memory. After all the channels have been scanned, the still images from all of the channels are simultaneously displayed on the television screen. This process gives the viewer more information about the program choices in addition to that obtainable from a textual television program guide, namely, still images of the actual programs are displayed.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 17, with following new paragraph:

FIG. 1 is a schematic showing one embodiment an apparatus according to the present invention with parental control circuitry embedded in a video cassette recorder;

FIG. 2 is a television screen in PIP format displaying password-based options of the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface Main Blocking Menu to block programs by Ratings/content codes, Time, Channel, Time Allowance, Pay-Per-View dollar Allowance and individual programs as selected from the program schedule grid guide or by inputting compressed codes such as a PlusCode ™ which is a compressed code used by Gemstar Development Corporation's VCRPlus+® systems and which presently appear in television calendars and may be used to identify particular programs; FIG. 1 also displays the Global Block/Unblock option which may be used by the Master/Administrator to temporarily override blocking instruction to allow unblocked viewing and to then re-establish blocking instructions;

FIG. 3 is a television screen in PIP format displaying a viewer selection from the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface Main Blocking Menu of the "Set Passwords" option;

FIG. 4 is a television screen in PIP format displaying the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface "Set Password" interface screen and sample viewer-defined users;

FIG. 5 is a television screen in PIP format displaying the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface "Set Password" interface screen and a sample viewer-defined password selection;

FIG. 6 is a television screen in PIP format displaying a viewer selection from the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface Main Menu of the "By Ratings" option;

FIG. 7 is a television screen in PIP format displaying the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface "By Ratings" interface screen and sample viewer-defined blocking selections;

FIG. 8 is a television screen in PIP format displaying confirmation that Ratings Blocking has been set by RED highlighting on the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface Main Blocking Menu of the "By Ratings" option;

FIG. 9 is a television screen in PIP format displaying a viewer selection from the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface Main Blocking Menu of the "By Time" option;

FIG. 10 is a television screen in PIP format displaying the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface "By Time" interface screen and sample viewer-defined blocking selections;

FIG. 11 is a television screen in PIP format displaying confirmation that Time Blocking has been set by RED highlighting on the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface Main Blocking Menu of the "By Time" option;

FIG. 12 is a television screen in PIP format displaying a viewer selection from the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface Main Blocking Menu of the "By Channel" option;

FIG. 13 is a television screen in PIP format displaying the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface "By Channel" interface screen and sample viewer-defined blocking selections;

FIG. 14 is a television screen in PIP format displaying confirmation that Channel Blocking has been set by RED highlighting on the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface Main Blocking Menu of the "By Channel" option;

FIG. 15 is a television screen in PIP format displaying a viewer selection from the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface Main Blocking Menu of the "By Time Allowance" option;

FIG. 16 is a television screen in PIP format displaying the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface "By Time Allowance" interface screen and sample viewer-defined blocking selections;

FIG. 17 is a television screen in PIP format displaying confirmation that By Time Allowance Blocking has been set by RED highlighting on the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface Main Blocking Menu of the "By Time Allowance" option;

FIG. 18 is a television screen in PIP format displaying a viewer selection from the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface Main Blocking Menu of the "By $ Allowance" option;

FIG. 19 is a television screen in PIP format displaying the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface "By $ Allowance" interface screen and sample viewer-defined blocking selections;

FIG. 20 is a television screen in PIP format displaying confirmation that By $ Allowance Blocking has been set by RED highlighting on the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface Main Blocking Menu of the "By $ Allowance" option;

FIG. 21 is a television screen in PIP format displaying a viewer selection from the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface Main Blocking Menu of the "Global Block/Unblock" option;

FIG. 22 is a television screen in PIP format displaying the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface "Global Block/Unblock" interface screen and sample viewer input of user identification and password;

FIG. 23 is a television screen in PIP format displaying a sample V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface Main Blocking Menu format that will appear after any Time Allowance or $ Allowance blocking has been set;

FIG. 24a is a television screen in PIP format displaying an alternative embodiment of the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface "By Ratings" interface screen for TV Ratings Codes and Content Codes in grid format with sample viewer-defined blocking selections;

FIG. 24b is a television screen in PIP format displaying an alternative embodiment of the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface "By Ratings" interface screen for MPAA Ratings Codes in grid format with sample viewer-defined blocking selections; and

FIG. 25 is a television screen in PIP format displaying an alternative embodiment of the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface "By Time" interface screen and sample viewer-defined blocking selections.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 32, with following new paragraph:

One embodiment of the present invention uses PIP display formatting to provide a password-protected programmable viewer interface to block or enable television program viewing, such as for parental control of television viewing. A parental control system is described in U.S. Patent No. 5,382,983, which is hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth in full herein. Such parental control systems include circuitry for providing parental control of the use of a television receiver. As shown in FIG. 1, the circuitry is generally embedded within a VCR 50 connected between a television signal input 52 and a television monitor or display 54. The parental control circuitry may be controlled by an input or remote controller 56 sending a command signal 58 to the circuitry to permit the user to select

either by inclusion or exclusion the particular source and/or programs, channels, dates and times available for television viewing. Co-pending U.S. Provisional Patent Application ~~Attorney Docket No.~~ 60/076290 ~~32068/CAG/G207~~ titled V-Chip Plus: Parental Control Apparatus and Method, the disclosures of which have been previously incorporated by reference as if set forth in full herein, describes a preferred embodiment of the invention disclosed therein as allowing the viewer consumer to override the operation of the V-Chip system for particular programs contained in consumer programmable enable-override lists and blocking-override lists.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 15, with following new paragraph:

The viewer can enter the Main Blocking Menu in a number of ways. One embodiment is that the viewer, at some point in time after turning on the viewer's television receiver, presses a dedicated key on a remote control device. In another embodiment, the viewer enters the Main Blocking Menu by selecting the Blocking Option from the GuidePlus+ Grid Guide option bar, causing the Main Blocking Menu to be displayed in the background window of the PIP display (the "PIP embodiment"). The PIP embodiment is reflected throughout the figures to this patent application. If "By Time Allowance" and/or "By $ Allowance" blocking instructions have been set, the Main Blocking Menu will appear when the viewing device, such as a television, is turned on.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 24, with following new paragraph:

Video and sound clips of future-scheduled programs highlighted by the viewer in the Grid Guide will be shown in the PIP or other window of the television screen. Co-pending PCT Application PCT/US95/11173, the disclosures of which have been previously incorporated by reference as if set forth in full herein, describes as one embodiment the use by a television viewer of a PIP format for display of future television program listings from a program schedule data base in the background and moving images of a video clip of one of the program listings in the background display selected, for example, by a cursor.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 21, with following new paragraph:

Once the viewer has completed entering "By Rating" blocking and/or enablement instructions, the viewer can return to the Main Blocking Menu by using the up/down arrow keys to highlight V-CHIP + on the menu bar. The "By Ratings" tile on the Main Blocking Menu will be RED, indicating that Ratings Blocking instructions have been set. FIG. 7 shows a television screen in PIP format displaying confirmation that Ratings Blocking instructions have been set by RED highlighting on the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface Main Blocking Menu of the "By Ratings" option.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 29, with following new paragraph:

The Master/Administrator can set user-level instructions to block program viewing for particular time ranges, for particular days of the week, or for "All Days." FIG. 8 shows a television screen in PIP format displaying a viewer selection from the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface Main Blocking Menu of the "By Time" option. By selecting the "By Time"option, the user enters the "By Time" interface screen. FIG. 9 shows a television screen in PIP format displaying the V-Chip Plus + In-Guide User Interface "By Time" interface screen and sample viewer-defined blocking selections.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 33, with following new paragraph:

FIG. 24 is a television screen in PIP format displaying an alternative embodiment of the V-Chip Plus+ In-Guide User Interface "By Time" interface screen and sample viewer-defined blocking selections. FIG. 24 provides for the designation by the Master/Administrator of time-sensitive categories such as "School Days," "Weekdays," "Weekends" and/or particular days of the week As an example of "School Day" blocking, if the Master/Administrator blocks the time frame from 8 pm to 7 am of a School Day, then the designated time frame is blocked for Sunday through Thursday. On the other hand, if the Master/Administrator blocks the time frame from 3 pm through 6 pm for School Days, then the designated time frame is blocked for Monday through Thursday. As an example of "Weekend" blocking, if the Master/Administrator blocks the time frame from 6 am through 8 am for Weekends, then the designated time frame is blocked for Saturday and Sunday. If the time frame from 6 pm through 7 pm is blocked for Weekends, then the designated time frame for Friday, Saturday and Sunday would be blocked. The Master/Administrator can further designate blocking for Weekdays (Monday through

Friday). Further, a "Saturday/Sunday" option may be offered as an alternative the to the "Weekend" time frame where the "Weekend" time frame generally tracks and is the opposite of the "School Days" time periods. Of course, it is possible to have "School Days" and "Weekends" delineated so that they overlap in some areas while neither cover other specific time periods. Further, "School Days" may further be split into "School Days" and "School Nights," where "School Days" generally refers to Monday - Friday days, while "School Nights" generally refers to Sunday - Thursday nights.

In the Claims:

Amend claim 1 and add new claims 5-13 as follows:

1. (Amended) A system for restricting access to television programs comprising:

an input for accepting cursor movement and selection commands;

a display that depicts a two dimensional matrix composed of rows and columns of tiles, wherein either the rows of tiles or the columns of tiles correspond to overall program ratings and either the rows of tiles or the columns of tiles correspond to specific program content indications and depicts highlighting of individual tiles or groups of tiles based on the cursor movement commands

means for blocking or allowing viewing of television programs based on the overall program ratings and specific content ratings of the rows and columns corresponding the highlighted tiles when a selection command is entered into the input.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the overall program ratings comprise one or more of group of TV-Y, TV-Y7, TV-G, TV-PG, TV-14, TV-MA, G, PG, PG-13, R, NC-17 and X.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein the specific program content indication comprises one or more of the group of L, language, V, violence, MV, mild violence, FV, fantasy violence, BN, brief nudity, N. nudity, S, sexual content, AS, adult situations, D, suggestive dialog.